

REMARKS

Claim 75 has been amended to require that the fabric stump covering be coated only on the inside thereof with polymeric cushioning material. This preferred embodiment of the present invention is neither disclosed nor suggested in the prior art.

DE '182 was applied against Claims 81-82. These two claims have been cancelled. Thus, the rejection over these claims is now moot.

Claims 75-80 were rejected as anticipated by Wilson. However, Wilson does not disclose or suggest a cushion liner as claimed in amended Claim 75.

That is, Wilson fails to disclose a fabric stump covering coated on only the inside thereof with a polymeric cushioning material. Instead, Wilson concentrates on fluid pouches for cushioning. Even the most detailed description of Wilson, which appears in Figure 2, fails to disclose the present invention. In Wilson, when the "conventional silicone impregnated sock" (emphasis added) described as element 7 at reference page 7 is present, there still is no disclosure or suggestion of a fabric stump covering coated on only the inside thereof with polymeric cushioning material. This distinction also applies to the SILOPAD SILOSHEATH, in that both the SILOSHEATH and the Wilson article are impregnated, and thus have polymeric bleed-through to the exterior surface of the fabric. This difference is important in this art, because it makes donning and doffing the covering extremely difficult - the bleed-through polymeric material rubs against itself and creates tremendous friction. The situation is quite different with the present invention which, as explained at specification page 25, slides against itself, providing easy action, due to the outer textile surface.

With regard to SU '990, one main difference between the present invention and the SU '990 disclosure is the fact that both the interior and exterior of SU '990 is fabric. See Element 1 in the reference.

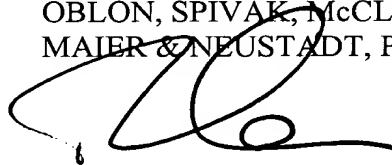
Finally, and although Applicants' invention differs dramatically from the SILOPAD SILOSHEATH, Applicants wish to point out several inconsistencies regarding the SILOSHEATH date, and take the position that this information does not constitute prior art against the present invention.

Certainly, the materials provided do not show evidence of a sale, as no prices are attached, the documents do not represent the bill, and the only indication of an amount is provided as a "value for custom purposes". These facts, in addition to the fact that the actual SILOSHEATH model submitted could not have been produced until after January 1, 1997, lead Applicants to the conclusion that the exemplar and paperwork submitted with the Information Disclosure Statement of November 6, 2000 does not constitute prior art against the present invention. However, and as noted above, the present invention as now claimed differs distinctly and dramatically from anything disclosed or suggested in the SILOSHEATH materials.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the presently pending claims are allowable over the cited prior art, and request early notification to this effect.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



Richard L. Treanor, Ph.D.
Attorney of Record
Registration No. 36,379



22850

(703) 413-3000/Fax #: (703) 413-2220
RLT/law
I:\atty\RLT\32950024-AM.WPD

MARKED-UP COPY OF AMENDED AND NEW CLAIMS
IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend Claim 75 as follows.

--75. (Amended) A cushion liner for enclosing an amputation stump, said liner comprising a fabric stump covering having an open end for introduction of said stump and a closed end opposite said open end, said fabric coated on only the inside thereof with polymeric cushioning material, wherein said polymeric cushioning material optionally has a thickness profile such that the polymeric cushioning material is thicker at a closed end of the covering than at an open end.--

Claims 79, 81 and 82 (Canceled).

Claims 83-87 (New).